

Amendments to the Claims:

The following list of claims is intended to replace all other lists of claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a thermoplastic film having a closure ~~strip~~, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a thermoplastic film web having a sealing surface, the temperature of the film web being below a melting temperature of the film web;

(b) providing a thermoplastic closure ~~strip~~ having male and female closure strips that are not interlocked, wherein one of the closure strips includes a binding surface, the temperature of the one closure strip being below a melting temperature of the one closure strip;

(c) extruding a thermoplastic binder layer;

(d) positioning the film web and the one closure strip such that the film web and the one closure strip are not in overlapping relationship;

(e) positioning the binder layer on the sealing surface of the film web and on the binding surface of the one closure strip while the male and female closure strips are not interlocked such that the binder layer contacts the sealing surface of the film web before the binder layer has cooled to a temperature below the melting temperature of the film web and the binder layer contacts the binding surface of the one closure strip before the binder layer has cooled to a temperature below the melting temperature of the one closure strip; and

(f) thereafter applying pressure to the binder layer so as to bind the one closure strip and film web to the binder layer.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:

step (f) comprises thereafter applying pressure to the one closure strip, the film web and the binder layer so as to bind the one closure strip and film web to the binder layer.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

step (b) comprises providing a thermoplastic female closure strip having a first binding surface and providing a thermoplastic male closure strip having a second binding surface, the temperature of both closure strips being below their respective melting temperatures;

step (c) comprises extruding a first thermoplastic binder layer and extruding a second thermoplastic binder layer; and

step (e) comprises positioning the first binder layer on a first sealing surface of the film web and the first binding surface of the female closure strip such that the first binder layer contacts the first sealing surface of the film web before the first binder layer has cooled to a temperature below the melting temperature of the film web and the first binder layer contacts the first binding surface of the female closure strip before the first binder layer has cooled to a temperature below the melting temperature of the female closure strip, and positioning the second binder layer on a second sealing surface of the film web and the second binding surface of the male closure strip such that the second binder layer contacts the second sealing surface of the film web before the second binder layer has cooled to a temperature below the melting temperature of the film web and the second binder layer contacts the second binding surface of the male closure strip before the second binder layer has cooled to a temperature below the melting temperature of the male closure strip; and

step (f) comprises thereafter applying pressure to the first binder layer and the second binder layer so as to bind the film web and the female closure strip to the first binder layer and bind the film web and the male closure strip to the second binder layer.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the film has a thickness of between 0.025 millimeters and 0.254 millimeters.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the binder layer has a thickness of between 0.025 millimeters and 0.152 millimeters.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a thermoplastic film having a closure strip, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a first cylindrical roller having a surface and an axis of rotation and a second cylindrical roller having a surface and an axis of rotation, the axis of the first roller and the axis of the second roller being substantially coplanar, the first roller and the second roller being aligned in spaced apart relationship such that a pinch area is formed between the surface of the first roller and the surface of the second roller;

(b) feeding a continuous length of a thermoplastic film web having a sealing surface such that the film web wraps on the surface of the first roller while the temperature of the film web is below a melting temperature of the film web;

(c) feeding a continuous length of a thermoplastic closure ~~strip~~ having male and female closure strips that are not interlocked, wherein one of the closure strips includes a binding surface such that the one closure strip wraps on the surface of the second roller while the temperature of the one closure strip is below a melting temperature of the one closure strip;

(d) extruding a thermoplastic binder layer;

(e) positioning the binder layer on the sealing surface of the film web and on the binding surface of the one closure strip; and

(f) feeding the film web, the binder layer and the one closure strip through the pinch area while the male and female closure strips are not interlocked such that the film web and the one closure strip are not in overlapping relationship and such that the binder layer contacts the sealing surface of the film web before the binder layer has cooled to a temperature below the melting temperature of the film web and the binder layer contacts the binding surface of the one closure strip before the binder layer has cooled to a temperature below the melting temperature of the one closure strip.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein:

step (e) comprises applying the binder layer to the binding surface of the one closure strip before the one closure strip reaches the pinch area; and

step (f) comprises feeding the film web and the one closure strip through the pinch area to create pressure on the film web and the one closure strip such that the binder layer contacts the sealing surface of the film web before the binder layer has cooled to a temperature below the melting temperature of the film web and the binder layer contacts the binding surface of the one closure strip before the binder layer has cooled to a temperature below the melting temperature of the one closure strip.

8-25. (Canceled)